

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## MYSTERY AT THE OLD MILL

**Behind-the-scenes story of a thrilling new film for Saturday Cinema Clubs**

*A thrilling film called **Treasure at the Mill** will shortly be on its way round the Boys' and Girls' Cinema Clubs. It is based on a new book of that name written by Malcolm Saville, who is already well known to our readers. And the unusual way it all happened is here described by a CN correspondent who has talked to everyone concerned.*

**M**ANY famous films have been made from novels, but in this case the idea did not start from a story at all, but from an old mill—a mill which really exists and is the home of a happy family down in Essex.

One day Malcolm Saville got a message from Mary Field of the Children's Film Foundation, asking him to go with her and see Spring Valley Mill, near Colchester. It was a lovely spot for a film location, and it was also in a district where Cavaliers and Roundheads did some skirmishing during the Civil War; an actual relic of those struggles had been found—a long basket-hilted rapier—thrust into the thatch of a nearby barn, probably by some fugitive soldier.

### THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

Everything was just right, so the author got down to his story, and the Children's Film Foundation got on with making the picture—with the happiest of results.

Treasure at the Mill concerns a boy, John Adams (played by Richard Palmer), who works in a nearby town at a bookseller's shop. He goes to the mill regularly for bird-watching in his spare time. Then one day, in the shop, he comes across a reference to the mill in an old book of local history: His mother produces a piece of 17th-century jewellery, which is an heirloom in the Adams family, and a mysterious rhyme on a faded piece of paper. This is the clue, and then the mystery deepens and the search begins.

Everything happens as it might in real life; and the search of the mysterious old mill, the breakneck ride on the ponies, the rescue from the mill pond, and the finding of the treasure are as exciting as can be.

Besides all this, you see the Petty family—six of them, counting Lundy, the big black Newfoundland—not to mention their ponies, who all really live at the mill.

### BIG AUTOGRAPH HUNT

I was at the premiere of the film with many hundreds of keen young Cinema Club members, and actually met Mr. and Mrs. Petty and Merrilyn, Hilary, and Harry, who take a big part in the picture. The children were signing autograph books as fast as they could.

Harry, aged seven, had had the toughest time, for he had to fall through a hole in the mill floor into the water at Easter time, when it was not too warm.

"They poured some hot water in for me, but it didn't do much good," he said.

I had to wait until Merrilyn, who is 13, and Hilary, who is a year younger, had satisfied the queues of children who wanted their programmes autographed. Then I asked them what it was like to have a whole film unit arrive at one's home.

"It was a bit hectic sometimes," said Merrilyn, "with all the cables and the lights."

"Did you have to keep on doing shots over and over again?" I asked.

"Sometimes," she nodded. "Especially that scene where we were playing draughts in the mill. It seemed to take about an hour."

"It was awfully difficult making Lundy act," said Hilary, "but he loved all the cakes he got."

Next I went across to the star, young Richard Palmer, while the last of the autograph hunters filed out. He had already appeared on television, but this was

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Richard Palmer as John Adams in *Treasure at the Mill*

## CARNIVAL OF THE ORANGES



With a smile on his lips and an orange in his hand, this clown of Binche is preparing to throw some "luck"

Belgian State Tourist Office

**NEXT** Tuesday, March 5, will be Shrove Tuesday, which in Britain means the tossing of pancakes. But over in Belgium they have a very different kind of ceremony.

Close to the French border is the Borinage, or "Black Country," a land of factories, furnaces, and slag heaps. Ten miles east on the road from Mons and you arrive at the town of Binche, the scene every Shrove Tuesday of one of the gayest and most riotous *Mardi Gras* (Fat Tuesday) festivals in the whole of Europe.

First, from a distance, the drums

are heard. There is the rhythm of the pavane, and the lilting tap of clogs on the cobbles. Soon, floating as it seems above the heads of the crowd in the market square, we can see towering plumes of ostrich feathers. These are the head-dresses of the famous *gilles*, or dancing clowns; and if we give these *gilles* closer inspection we shall see what strange costumes they are wearing.

Their linen dress is of a fawn colour, decorated with black and orange lions, and hung with little bells. As a disguise for their faces, most of them are wearing masks

with strange noses, artificial spectacles, and curly moustaches.

Every *gille* carries a wickerwork basket laden with oranges, and at a signal from the band they hurl them at the crowd. It is their way of bringing the people "luck."

This custom may have sprung from the celebrations ordained in commemoration of the conquest of Peru by Pizarro, the great Spanish soldier. For this country, during part of the 16th century, was under the domination of Spain. The golden oranges are said to represent the golden treasures of the Inca Indians of Peru.



# AMONG THE GUIDES IN RHODESIA

## Big welcome for Lady Baden-Powell

*The World Chief Guide, Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, recently made a tour of the Rhodesias, stopping at the larger villages for small rallies of perhaps two or three Companies of Guides or Packs of Brownies.*

*These children are just as keen as their sisters in any other part of the world and many of them travelled long distances for the thrill of meeting their Chief Guide.*

THESE little Guides of Rhodesia are mainly attached to Mission Schools, and base most of their "displays" on stories from the Gospels. The Chief Guide writes that, though they have little enough for "dressing up" purposes, they have a keen sense of drama, and always succeed in getting their story across, with something of its spirit, too.

"I have seen several different presentations of the Parable of the



Lady Baden-Powell

Good Samaritan," writes Lady Baden-Powell, "each one different from the last, but in every case each item of the story was most vividly demonstrated, even to the extent of doing real first-aid on the wounded 'man' and then lifting him carefully and correctly on to a 'donkey' (a Guide covered with a brown blanket) to carry him away to the inn.

"These Guides have given me a wonderful welcome. Their singing is quite lovely, and yet they know not a note of actual 'music,' but sing naturally in harmony. They invent words to the songs as they go along. They have some lovely dances of their own, and do them with such verve and gaiety. At one village they had learned an old English dance, and I think some of the Guides at home would have laughed to see me joining in, on a wide dusty ground, in grilling sun, all of us cavorting about together with large grins on our faces."

### AFTER MANY YEARS

Lady Baden-Powell finds, wherever she goes, that in so many cases the missionary, nurse, welfare worker, teacher, or wife has been at some time or other a Scout, Guide, or Brownie; and that many of these women, after a lapse when they have had to make their careers or settle down in married life, have later returned to the Movement to give back to it something of the good that they gained from it in their young days.

"I could not help wondering," said a woman missionary, "as we stood and sang 'Taps' on Monday night, how many different memories were aroused in the minds of those present. For me, my mind went back to the close of countless happy meetings in my little Anglican Church Company at home—on summer evenings outside and on winter ones indoors.

### IN AN AFRICAN SETTING

"How little I thought then that the somewhat timid Guide that I then was, with a dread of a patrol leader who had an eagle eye for any defect of uniform, would one day stand out here and sing it in an African setting and with African guiders looking at her for what little help she can give; but so it is. Well, you know better than I, perhaps, how much Guiding has to give in this country, and how much it is doing to bring the races nearer to one another."

With the help of such missionaries the Guides in Northern and Southern Rhodesia, as in other parts of Africa, are proving most valuable in giving training in skills and handicraft to the rather backward peoples in the isolated bush villages.

At one stopping-place where the Chief Guide landed for an hour she was handed a cheque for five pounds from the Guides in that part of Northern Rhodesia, to be used in helping Hungarian refugee Guides in England. And this was from children who had never even seen another Guide, but who had heard of the tragedy of Hungary and wanted to help.

### ALL RACES

In the larger centres in Southern Rhodesia, Guides and Brownies of all races came together to meet the Chief Guide—1500 in Salisbury and 2000 in Bulawayo. Many of these children had travelled long distances by lorry or on foot to get there, and each Company and Pack had come armed with its own special display of Guide activities: including African dances and games, the sewing of patchwork quilts, the making of Christmas decorations for hospitals, the making of models, and plaster casts of leaves.

Southern Rhodesia has doubled its numbers in the last few years, and Guiding means a great deal to these girls in faraway Mission schools. They have a camp site away in the Matoppo Hills, and remember with pride that it was there that the Founder of the Scout and Guide movement did so much of his own scouting during his Army days.

## Reforming the Rates

By the CN Political Correspondent

A BIG plan for "reforming the rates" is now being discussed by the Government with the people concerned. What are rates and why do they have to be "reformed"?

Rates are a local tax paid on our 15 million houses and various other buildings, including works and factories. All these properties have a value placed on them by valuation experts for rating (taxing) purposes. Your house may have a "rateable value" of £60 a year.

### FATHER'S CONTRIBUTIONS

To get the income they need your local council announces a rate—say, ten shillings in the pound. This means ten shillings for each pound of the rateable value (or assessment) of your house.

Therefore the total rate paid by Father would be ten shillings multiplied by 60—£30.

What, then, is the Government trying to do? Briefly, it wants to try to keep the rates down. It also wants to give local councils more control over the way they spend ratepayers' money.

Our councils cannot, however, raise enough money to run themselves without Government help, and so for every £5 paid through rates the Government pays £6. And let us be clear about one thing. Government money is found by taxpayers. Local funds are therefore built up by ratepayers and taxpayers.

### BRING DOWN THE TAXES

Mr. Henry Brooke, the Minister of Housing, who deals with the local councils, believes the taxpayers should in future pay out less than ratepayers to local funds. He wants to bring down taxes, too.

Up to now the Government has been saying: "Here is £x for this service and £y for that." And because Whitehall is doling out this money, Whitehall also says how the money should be spent.

Under the reform plan the Government will in future give a local council a lump sum to spend as it likes—not as Whitehall dictates—on most of the services. In this way the ratepayer will have more control over what his council spends—that is, over the rates.

### FINDING THE MONEY

At the same time the Government wants to help councils to get more money from rates. They could do so by putting up the rates, but Mr. Brooke does not want that. So he has turned to industry.

In 1929 industry was going through a bad time. Factories were closing down and people could not get work. To check this "depression" the Government then excused industry, including docks and canals, all but one-quarter of its rate payments.

Now, because conditions are better, he proposes industry should pay one-half. So, in effect, their rates will be doubled. This will produce new money for councils.

## News from Everywhere

A colour film about a young African boy who helps to track down a gang of game poachers is being made in Kenya and Uganda by the Children's Film Foundation.

A green-eyed eel has been netted three-quarters of a mile deep in the Pacific off the Cook Strait, New Zealand.

### EXCLUSIVE

A sixty-seat transatlantic Strato-cruiser with a crew of eleven flew into London recently carrying only one passenger.

Three million Army surplus razor blades were auctioned at Ruddington, Nottinghamshire, recently for £1600—eight a penny.

The hardest substance ever made by man has been produced in the U.S. Called borazon, it can even scratch a diamond.

### MOUNTIES COMING HERE

A troop of Royal Canadian Mounted Police are coming to Britain in April to perform their famous musical ride at a number of agricultural shows.

The West Indies Federation is to have a calypso for a National Anthem.

A French jet aircraft, the Mirage-03, recently reached a speed of 1143 m.p.h. in level flight—11 m.p.h. faster than Britain's world record holder, the Fairey Delta.

The annual British Toy Fair is being held this week at Brighton. Nearly 200 manufacturers are displaying toys.

Work has started in London on one of Britain's first multi-storey garages, designed to hold 1000 cars.

A torch which can run for ten years on one battery is being sold in the United States. The battery is charged by silicon cells which convert the sun's energy into electricity.

**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SUNDAY**  
Empire Youth Sunday is to be known in future as Commonwealth Youth Sunday.

The Vickers Viking, the first plane to fly from England to Australia, in 1919, is being preserved at Adelaide as a monument to the pilots, Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith.

A fine new souvenir book on London City's historic square mile is being prepared. It will be on sale to the public, and will also be presented to distinguished officials visiting London.

The United States now has a population of 170 million.

A Bilston (Staffordshire) councillor has bought two of the town's last street gas lamps for his back garden.



### Seven reasons for being busy

A lot of puppies make a lot of work, but looking after them is part of the pleasant task of Mrs. F. Stephens, who runs kennels at West Drayton, Middlesex.

## MYSTERY AT THE OLD MILL

Continued from page 1

his first picture, and he had already signed up for another.

"I'm 15 on Wednesday," he said in reply to my first question. "Yes, I'd like to make a career in pictures—if I can. But if not, I'm going into the airlines business."

"Pilot?"

"Yes. I'm joining the A.T.C. at school next term."

"What about that rescue act of yours in the mill pond?"

Richard laughed. "I've promised myself I'll never go swim-

ming as early as Easter again. Bird-watching's warmer."

Judging by the roars and encouraging shouts of the audience as they followed every move of hero, helpers, and wicked villain book-seller, they all enjoyed the picture. And meeting those who had taken part was an extra thrill.

I shall never see an old water mill again without thinking of hidden treasure.

(The book version of *Treasure at the Mill* is published by George Newnes at 8s. 6d.)



**CN Picture-News and Time Map**

The clocks above show time all over the world. Sun light moves westward round the Earth, travelling 15 degrees an hour. This means that every 15 degrees east of Greenwich the clock is one hour ahead, and every 15 degrees west is one hour behind.

**WARNING** of approaching hurricanes will be received much earlier when 39 new radar sets have been put up for the United States Weather Bureau. *See news columns*

**A RUBBER PLANTATION** of 20,000 acres is being developed near the Nigerian seaport of Calabar. It is hoped that when the first half of the plantation starts production, in about five years' time, the yield of latex (the milky fluid from which rubber is produced) will be 4000 tons a year.

**HUGH RESERVES** of niobium have been found in Northern Rhodesia. Niobium makes metals harder and more resistant to heat, and is used in the manufacture of jet-aircraft engines. It sells at £1000 a ton.

**THE JAWAHAR TUNNEL** which runs for 1½ miles through the Pir Panjal mountains of Kashmir has been opened to traffic. Asia's longest road tunnel, it provides an all-weather link with India, and saves 18 miles on the journey between Srinagar, capital of Kashmir, and the East Punjab town of Pathankot.

**THE SOVIET UNION** last year had its record grain harvest. About 115 million tons were produced, 12 million tons more than in 1955. The increase was largely due to the very favourable wheat harvest in the Kazakhstan Republic, where much new land has been cultivated.

**SARAWAK** is to build a road from Serian to Simanggang, 82 miles long. It will open up big areas for agriculture and lead to the development of the country's untapped coal deposits.

**AUSTRALIA'S** first rice crop has been produced near Darwin, seaport in the Northern Territory. The 350-ton crop was raised on what was formerly a plain where wild buffalo roamed. *See news columns*

**TWO PEAKS** in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains of Colombia have been climbed for the first time by a British expedition which spent five weeks in hitherto unexplored regions. *See news columns*

## BRITISH SUCCESS IN THE ANDES

A British expedition has conquered two hitherto unclimbed peaks in Colombia.

Led by Dr. A. B. Cunningham, lecturer at the Royal Holloway College, the expedition of six men spent five weeks in the hitherto unexplored eastern ridges of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, an isolated group of mountains in the north-eastern corner of Colombia, along the northern rim of the Andes.

The two peaks conquered for the first time were unnamed, but names have been submitted to the Colombian Government. It was proposed that the highest peak (17,500 feet) be called Pico de los Hermanos (Peak of the Brothers), because it was climbed by Dr. Cunningham and his brother.

For the other peak, the suggested name is Pico Santa Barbara. *See World Map.*

## GEORGE MEDAL FOR CADETS

The George Medal has been awarded to two cadets at the Australian Royal Military College for their attempts to rescue five other cadets from Lake George, near Canberra, last July.

For six hours the two cadets, David Ford and Kevin Gosling, tried to help their comrades in a capsized boat in water which was almost freezing. Unhappily, despite all their efforts, all five were overcome by cold and exhaustion.

## RICE FROM HUMPTY DOO

Australia's first crop of rice is the first fruits of the biggest single agricultural project in the world, the Humpty Doo rice scheme, 30 miles from Darwin.

The name Humpty Doo was given to the locality by white men almost a century ago—their version of the Aboriginal name Umdudu.

The 350 tons of rice produced there represents hard work and the enterprise of an American millionaire, Mr. Allen Chase, who is keen on developing wastelands throughout the world. Knowing that rice is the basic food of half the world's people, he set out three years ago to find an assured source of the vital grain.

He found what he sought at Humpty Doo, an immense alluvial blacksoil plain where wild buffalo wallowed in the swamps and wild geese flocked in migratory millions. A party surveyed 750,000 acres of rich treeless land, ideal for growing rice because it is flooded every year for just the right period by the monsoon floods. The work of clearing soon began, the main problem being to control the sprawling waters and channels.

The company which has been formed for this venture has an agreement with the Australian Government under which it must cultivate 500,000 of the 750,000 acres in the next 15 years. The present population of Humpty Doo is 30, but it is expected to be at least 20,000 by that time.

*See World Map.*

## SALT DESERT IN ANTARCTICA

The scientists aboard the Soviet research ship Ob, now operating within the Antarctic Circle, have found an archipelago of more than 150 islands in the vast Prydz Bay. When a party of men from the Ob landed on one of these islands they found that salt was thickly caked in every hollow among the rocks of which the island is composed.

It is assumed that the salt is deposited there when sea water

and sea spray are hurled over the island during the strong autumn gales. The island showed no signs of plant life, not even lichens. "It is a peculiar salty Antarctic desert," says a Soviet report.

But there is life in the surrounding seas. By trawling the bottom of the bay from a launch, red sea-urchins and molluscs were found. It is also claimed that four species of fish previously unknown to science were discovered.



### Delivery by scooter

A clever idea of adapting the scooter for use as a delivery van to beat the petrol shortage was seen recently in London. It can carry nearly seven hundredweight at 90 miles per gallon.

## CN READER WINS HOME CINEMA

The Ace Projector offered in CN Competition No. 7 has been awarded to

**Michael Hunter,  
St. Helen's Road,  
Hastings.**

Congratulations to you, Michael!

Fountain-pens for the next best efforts go to Christopher Beadle, Loughborough; Robert Chisholm, Aberdeen; Sylvia Clarke, Belfast; Christopher Collinson, Tonbridge; Roland Littlewood, Leicester; Mary Porteous, Dollar; Peter Stevens, London, W.5; Rosemary Studholme, Edinburgh; Annette Thornton, Bournemouth; Janet Veal, Southampton. Solution: 1. Dachshund; 2. Corgi; 3. St. Bernard; 4. Retriever; 5. Boxer; 6. Husky; 7. Alsatian; 8. Pekinese.

## RADAR WARNINGS OF HURRICANES

The U.S. Weather Bureau is to have 39 powerful radar sets each able to scan 200,000 square miles of sky and pinpoint storms 250 miles away.

This will give the Met. men a vast picture of the areas where hurricanes develop in the danger season and provide earlier warning of these devastating storms and the direction they are taking, whether seaward or towards the American coast.

Hurricanes cause loss of life and great damage in the U.S.A. every year. *See World Map.*



ERNEST THOMSON WRITES ABOUT RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND PROGRAMMES

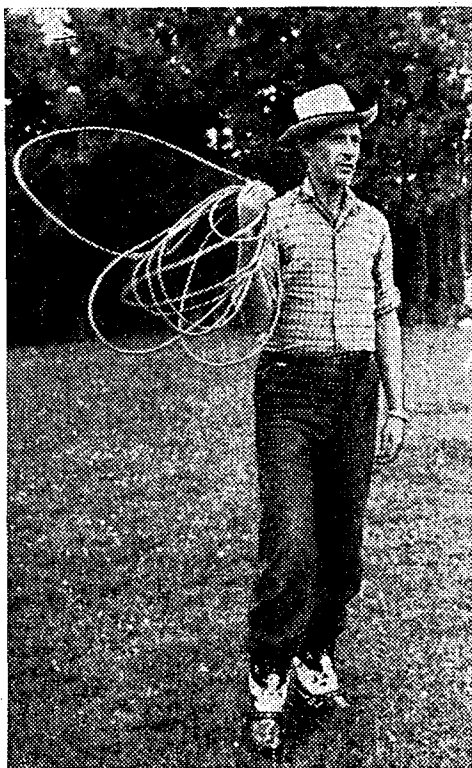
## ROSS SALMON IS BACK AGAIN

ROSS SALMON, whose open-air tales have always been popular, makes a welcome return to BBC Children's TV this Thursday. Recently Ross figured in the news when he had a nasty accident on Dartmoor, being thrown from his horse Faithful. It was Faithful who led the search-party to the spot where Ross was found.

Now, I hear, he is up and well again, though still limping. Vere Lorrimer, who is Ross Salmon's TV producer, tells me the first programme will include a filmed riding adventure on Dartmoor for which Ross called in the help of a number of the local farmers.

It is a story of a wager among riders to see who can reach a certain spot on the Moor first. All sorts of tricks are resorted to,

and they pretend to be cross with each other. But all finish up as friends again.



Ross Salmon is an expert with a lariat

## How to stop a dog fight

HAVE you tried to stop a dog fight? What is the best way to separate the contestants without being bitten? To find out, it would be a good idea to tune in BBC Television's Smokey Club next Saturday.

Mrs. Barbara Woodhouse, the well-known animal trainer, will be in the Birmingham studio with four of the most savage dogs to be found in that city. When Mrs. Woodhouse put out an appeal for them, she promised there would be

no audition, and the dogs would not meet each other until they stood before the TV cameras.

As a one-time breaker-in of wild horses in the Argentine, Mrs. Woodhouse has no difficulty in taming the wildest dog. At her home in Rickmansworth, Herts., she deals with 3000 problem dogs a year. Her constant companion is Great Dane Juno. Recently an American admirer offered a huge sum for him, but Mrs. Woodhouse declined with thanks.

## Programmes sent all over the world

A SIDE of the BBC's activities we don't hear much about is the Transcription Service. Every week from the big recording centre at Maida Vale, in north-west London, the Corporation despatches discs of programmes for re-broadcasting from stations throughout the Commonwealth and also the United States of America.

Children's programmes, I hear, arouse a lot of interest. At Maida Vale the other day I was told that more and more orders are being received for "packaged" programmes like The House at Pooh Corner, by A. A. Milne; the Adventures of Clara Chuff; and David Davis's production of Alice Through the Looking-Glass.

One of the most popular of British recorded programmes overseas is Children Singing, in which Shirley Abicair introduces selections by the Orpington Girls' Choir, the Scottish Junior Singers, and other choirs from the Regions.

Programmes are specially re-

corded on lightweight discs for easy transport.

The machine on which the transcriptions are made is like a complicated gramophone. On this is placed the extra-large disc without grooves. Recording is a complicated business, and the engineer is kept very busy watching his array of dials and checking that the stylus is making grooves of the correct depth on the disc.

Many stations overseas prefer broadcasting from these discs as they are free from the interference often met with in relaying BBC programmes picked up direct on short waves.



An engineer examining the depth of a cut before making a recording

## ALL ABOARD WITH THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

A WHOLE train, including a 1906 vintage engine, was lent by British Railways for film sequences in connection with the new BBC Children's TV serial, The Railway Children, which starts on Sunday.

Strictly speaking, I should not call it a new serial, because this glorious story by Edith Nesbit—one of the most popular writers for children 50 years ago—was first done on TV in 1951, so successfully that it was given a "live" repeat the same year.

Dorothea Brooking was the producer then, as she is now. But this time, instead of having to fake a lot of outdoor scenes in the studio, she has been able to take film cameras to an actual stretch of line near Baynard Station, between Guildford and Horsham. Film shots will be mingled with "live" acting in the studio.

One of the most exciting episodes on the actual railway shows the three children—Bobby (Roberta), Phyllis, and Peter—saving a train from running into a landslide by frantically waving red petticoats. The railway children are played by two girls and a boy, who all go to the Arts Educational Schools in London.

Anneke Willys (15), who is seen as the eldest, Bobby, has appeared in many television plays; Sandra Michaels (12), playing Phyllis, was seen the other day in a TV documentary about the Eleven-Plus exam; Cavan Kendall (14), in the part of brother Peter, has just been playing with Janette Scott in the London run of Peter Pan.

I am sure you will enjoy the Railway Children. Edith Nesbit packed her tale with incidents which are technically accurate,

because she took advice from her son Paul, himself a great railway enthusiast. And she had a wonderful sense of humour, as you will see on Sunday.



Sandra Michaels

### Name your favourites

REQUEST WEEK voting time for BBC Children's Hour has come round again. What were your six favourite Children's Hour programmes in the past twelve months? Write them on a postcard, with your name, address, and age, and post the card to Children's Hour, Broadcasting House, in your own region. Tuesday, March 5, is the last day postcards can be received.

Jennings At School won all-round popularity last year, though several other programmes got higher votes in particular regions. High up in the list were Counter-Spy, White Boots, Toy Town, and Regional Round-Up. By the way, I hear that the total number of votes was lower last year than in 1955, owing to the printing dispute. The appeal for Request Week votes only went out by radio, and a lot of CN readers may have missed it.

### Shipping forecasts stay at 11.55

SAFETY of ships at sea is more important than the convenience of broadcast listeners. That is why the BBC has had to turn down requests that the shipping forecast at 11.55 a.m. in the Light Programme on Sunday mornings should be delayed five minutes and put out at noon. Listeners have complained that the present timing shortens the People's Service.

The forecast cannot go out at noon because this is internationally recognised as the time when ships listen for SOS messages.

### Training a falcon

PETER SCOTT, back from a world tour which included a call at Melbourne for the Olympic Games, makes a "live" reappearance in Look this week. He has chosen an adventurous subject for Children's TV this Thursday—a film showing the capture of a wild Saker falcon in the Borszony Hills of North Hungary, and its training as a hunter. This long-winged species of falcon is still used by the Arabs for the pursuit of the small deer called gazelles and bustards.

In the studio we shall meet bearded film actor James Robertson Justice, who is a notable trainer of falcons.

### In the days of Roman Britain

ONE of the mysteries of history is recalled in The Eagle of the North, the BBC Children's Hour serial starting this Wednesday. It tells of a Roman Legion, 5000 strong, which in the year A.D. 117 marched off from Eboracum—now York—northwards into the Scottish mists and was never heard of again.

Marius Goring has the leading part of Marcus Flavius Aquila, a young cohort commander. David Davis is producer of this adaptation by Felix Felton of the book by Rosemary Sutcliff.

### Billy Bean at the wheel

DESPITE petrol rationing, Billy Bean takes up motor racing in a big way in his next BBC Children's TV, starting on Friday. Watch him win at Silverstone with the B.B.R.M. (Billy Bean Racing Motor). I am told this contraption is well up to the standard of Billy's original Funny Machine.

### Pilgrimage to Southwark

FOR Cathedral Pilgrimage in BBC Children's Hour next Sunday, March 3, producer John Lane had to decide whether his commentator should be London-bred or someone completely detached. He chose the latter, which is why listeners will be taken round this lovely old church by a Canadian actor, Stanley Maxted.

"The North American voice suits the broadcast," John Lane told me. "Southwark Cathedral has a special interest for Americans and Canadians because of its associations with Shakespeare and the Globe Theatre which stood nearby. The Harvard Chapel contains a U.S. Army flag."

Stanley Maxted's guides are the Provost of the Cathedral and Mr. Wallace, the head verger. Listeners will hear a description of the Shakespeare window and another dedicated to the poet Chaucer, who lived in Southwark.

### Through the sound barrier on TV

A TELEVISION camera installed aboard a Convair delta-wing jet trainer recently took American viewers through the sound barrier, the first time a "live" television show had attempted such a task.

A National Broadcasting Company cameraman, seated in the front cockpit of the trainer, had been taken up to "shoot" some aerial manoeuvres, and in trying to keep up with a jet fighter the cameraman—and the viewers—travelled faster than sound.



# THE LAND WE SHALL NOW CALL GHANA

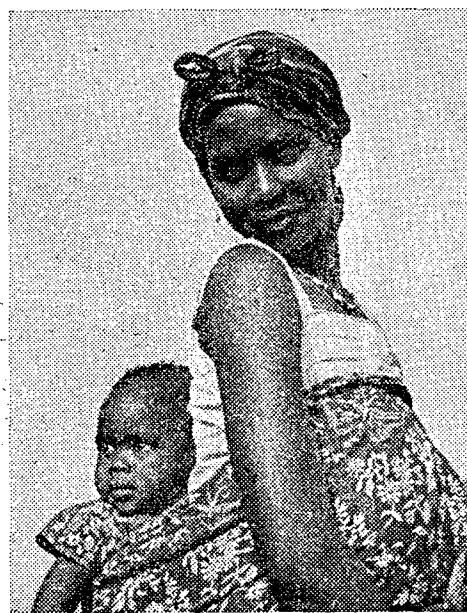
On March 6 the Gold Coast will become Ghana, the first self-governing African State within the Commonwealth. In the name of the Queen, the Duchess of Kent will on this day perform the State opening of the Ghana Parliament. The women of the Gold Coast will wear their brightest clothes, the men their smartest robes. There will be singing and dancing, processions and shouting, and playing of bands. And the feasting and celebrations over, Ghana will go forward, master of its own destiny. A new era of independence will have begun for this broad strip of West African territory stretching from the steaming Guinea Coast to the grasslands of the north.

THE early Portuguese explorers called this land *Ora del Mina*—the Mouth of the (gold) Mines. Grains of gold sparkle on the alluvial beds of the great rushing rivers, of which the Volta is the best known. That is how it was named the Gold Coast, once a land of cannibals; a land, too, from which 10,000 slaves a year were once exported. An expanding Britain fought wars over it—with the Dutch and the French, and the dread Ashanti tribesmen. In 1844 the British signed a pact with the chiefs. It gave them the right to try criminals and to stop the ancient practice of offering human sacrifices to the tribal gods. In effect they became rulers, but the proud Ashanti were never really subdued. In 1900 an Ashanti revolt was crushed and the modern Gold Coast emerged.

The country today is about the same size as Great Britain, with a population of 4,700,000, of whom only 13,000 are non-Africans.

The capital and main town is on the coast. This is Accra, a thriving port, set in a coastal strip of thickly peopled country.

Accra has drawn to itself the ambitious youth of the Gold Coast. As big as Bournemouth, it has amenities undreamed of by most of the country inhabitants of Ghana: piped water, electricity, neat houses of concrete blocks, paved streets, cinemas, libraries, churches, hospitals, factories, and shops, small and large.



Young Citizens—Gold miners off duty, and a mother who is always on duty

There are other fine buildings, too: the Governor's residence, which is the old and lovely Danish fort of Christiansborg shining white above the sea cliffs; the Parliament Building; a huge, modern Post Office and Telephone Exchange. And outside the town, on a breezy hill, the new buildings of the University College symbolise the advance of education.

## RICH FARMERS

There is another centre of population and wealth a hundred miles inland, and this is the area in which the cocoa is grown. It is the land of the proud and fierce Ashanti, united under the Asantehene, a hereditary ruler whose symbol of kingship is a wonderful Golden Stool.

Some of the Ashanti cocoa farmers are rich men; their cocoa goes into most of the chocolates we eat, and from it came much of the money for the development of the Gold Coast—for its railways, its grand new harbour, fine roads, and free education for children.

To the north of Ashanti lie the Northern Territories, a vast area of grasslands peopled by cattle-keeping Moslem tribesmen. For the development of this area Ghana must now bear the responsibility.

## BRITISH PLAN

Altogether today there are six regions in Ghana—Accra, Western, Eastern, Togoland, Ashanti, and the Northern Territories. And it is on this framework that a new self-governing constitution has been worked out.

Britain put up the plan. It provides for a Parliament to which the Parliament at Westminster has now transferred its powers of control. The Queen remains Sovereign of Ghana.

There is a Cabinet of Ministers with "collective" (shared) responsibility, as in Britain. In future the Queen will be advised by these Ministers, not by the Colonial Secretary in London.

Of course, like most plans, this one was resisted. It still is. The Opposition parties in Ghana want a federal system in which each of the six regions would have an

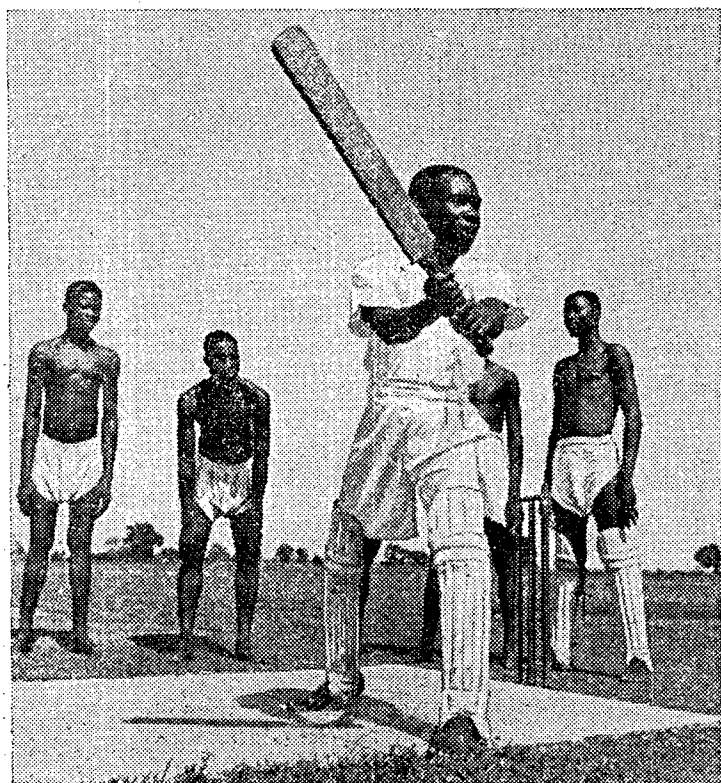
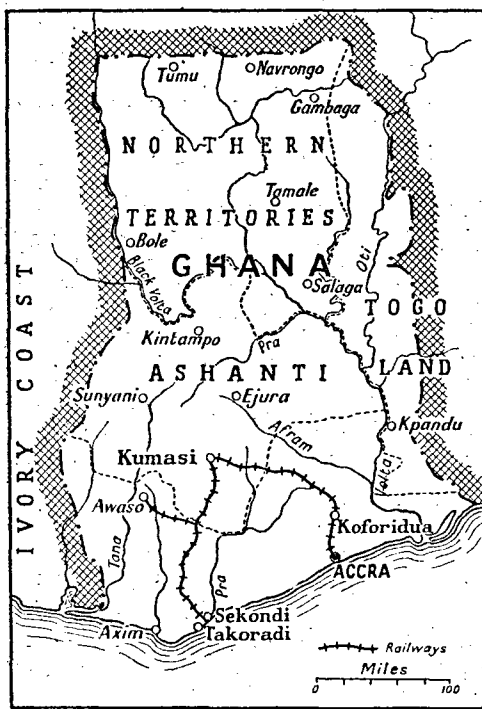
equal say and would not come under a central direction.

The Ashanti like their old tribal system, and they fear that their way of life will be threatened once the British have left. Undoubtedly there are difficulties ahead, but unity will come, just as it came to England, Wales, and Scotland.

A general election in July last year brought majority approval for self-government on the British plan. Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, who was educated in Britain and the U.S., emerged triumphant from

that election as Prime Minister, and it is his government that will lead the new Ghana.

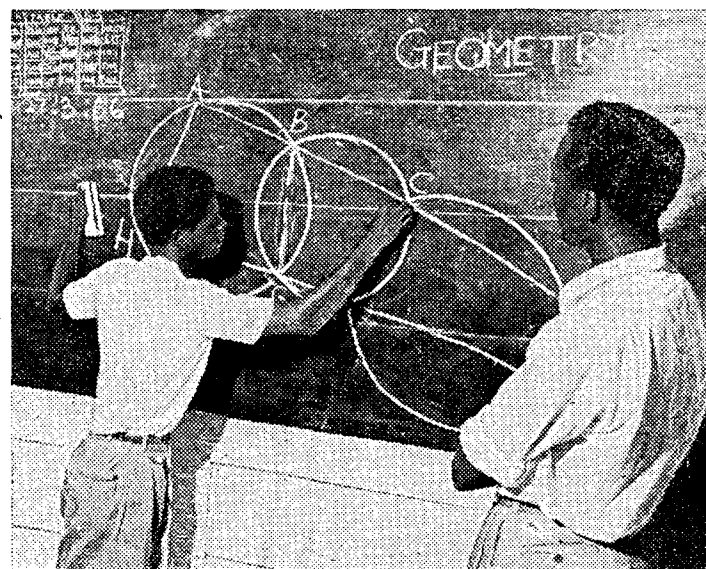
No visitor to Ghana can fail to notice the cheerfulness and good nature of the people. This is reflected, too, in the pictures on this page. Neither can a visitor fail to notice their pride in their country and their faith in its future. They are about to take part in one of the most interesting experiments ever carried out within the British Commonwealth, and the whole world will wish them well.



Batting tips for senior boys at Tamale



Eager students in the science class at a Girls' Secondary School



Geometry is among the subjects for boys at Secondary Schools



# Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House  
Whitefriars . London . EC4  
MARCH 2 ..... 1957

## SPRING IN BERMUDA

SPRING is the season of promise, and it therefore seems a happy chance that the meeting between the Prime Minister and President Eisenhower is to take place at the beginning of spring.

The Prime Minister is anxious that this should be a "forward-looking" conference, marking the beginning of a new era of happier relations between the two nations. For such a conference there could hardly be happier timing than this, proposed by President Eisenhower himself.

No less happy is his proposal that Bermuda should be the scene of the conference. As Mr. Macmillan has said: "I think all my fellow-countrymen will be touched at the generous gesture the President has made in suggesting that he should be our guest on British soil."

Like a ray of spring sunshine comes this opportunity for the British and American leaders to talk together on mutual problems.

We have no doubt that their meeting will banish the frowns across the Atlantic, and that in their place will come a better understanding between two countries whose need of each other is as great as ever it has been.

To maintain peace and to promote the wellbeing of all mankind is the aim of both. Only by working together in harmony can that aim be realised.

## DETECTIVE'S RECORD

THAT most famous of all detectives in fiction, Sherlock Holmes, has started a new lease of life—on a gramophone record.

Two of the most famous stories are given: Dr. Watson meets Sherlock Holmes on one side; and The Final Problem on the other. Sir John Gielgud plays the part of the great detective and Sir Ralph Richardson is the devoted Dr. Watson. Sherlock's arch-enemy, that master criminal Professor Moriarty, is played by Orson Welles.

It is interesting to recall that when Sherlock Holmes met his death in The Final Problem, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his publishers received so many letters of protest that the author was forced to resurrect his detective in another series of stories.

## Think on These Things

THE third commandment tells us that we are not to take God's name in vain. "The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain" (Exodus 20. 7).

The person who has a true reverence for God could never use His name in an improper way.

But this commandment means something more. The name of God is used in the Bible to denote His character. One of the things about God's character is that He is perfect truth. If therefore we are untruthful we do something against God's character and so we break the commandment.

We need to take care to see that the words we use are good words in every sense of the term.  
O. R. C.

## JUST AN IDEA

As Lord Morley wrote: It is not enough to do good; one must do it in the right way.

# The Editor's Table

## Walking on air

A PROFESSOR of Dijon, France, has invented pneumatic soles which can be inflated just like a bicycle tyre and fitted to ordinary shoes.

It is claimed that they are comfortable, hard-wearing, and watertight. Doubtless they also give the wearer the exhilarating feeling of walking on air!

## Rhythm babies



Making a lot of noise with cymbals is grand fun. But doing it while obeying the conductor's beat is better still. These two performers belong to the Percussion Band of a London day nursery.

## Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper, March 5, 1927

THE great scheme for a ship canal from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic has been brought a big stage nearer fulfilment by a decision of the Commission appointed by President Coolidge.

Many Americans wanted a canal wholly in United States territory, and supported schemes to join up the lakes with the Hudson River and so with New York. But the Commission says this would be enormously expensive, and supports the scheme for deepening the existing canals by Niagara and the St. Lawrence.

## THEY SAY...

ANYTHING is possible in this world.

President Eisenhower

MANY knighthoods have been given to batsmen in cricket, but the last bowler to be knighted was Sir Francis Drake.

Eric Bedser

A LOT of harm is done in the countryside by the over-collection of wild flowers.

Director of Education for Derbyshire

WHOEVER says that the country is second-rate, or has no future... is guilty of a great treason, not least against himself.

Minister of Education

I HAVE found the sausage to be a more complex entity than I ever imagined.

The Minister of Agriculture

## QUIZ CORNER

1. Do you know the name of the big web-footed bird with a pouched bill to hold fish?
2. Can you state what are the colours of these stones: ruby, amethyst, sapphire, garnet, emerald?
3. Who wrote The Blue Bird?
4. What is the popular name for New York's Stock Exchange?
5. Which King of England introduced the Order of the Garter?
6. What is meant by the nautical terms port and starboard?

Answers on page 12

## Welcome in Ceylon

FILM stars William Holden, Alec Guinness, and Jack Hawkins have been touched by the spontaneous welcome given them by children in Ceylon, where they have been engaged in making a Columbia picture called The Bridge on the River Kwai.

Every day, on the actors' drive to their location, crowds of village children have run from their thatched huts shouting "Cheerio!" and "Aubowan!" (long life), and throwing wild flowers into the cars.

The youngsters have organised these daily greetings quite on their own, without any prompting. It is just their natural friendly way.

## CONSTANT

BUT I am constant as the northern star, Of whose true-fixed and resting quality

There is no fellow in the firmament.

Shakespeare

(Julius Caesar, Act III, Scene I)

## Out and About

A YOUNG friend of mine has decided to make a note of the different voices in the great Spring Choir. Not all birds sing as ardently as Shelley's skylark, but there is infinite variety in their voices.

We usually know owls, for example, by their different hunting calls, but in the semi-darkness last evening a voice came across the fields from a line of trees and sounded like "tu-whit, to-whoo." Many readers must be familiar with that call without even having heard it, because Shakespeare and other poets have written of it.

## FEEDING TIME

But it is not the song of just any owl, but of the brown (or tawny) owl; moreover it is only the song of the bird in the mating season. The one I heard has a nest in the bole of a tree between the fields. Almost certainly he and his mate will be busy feeding three or four youngsters before the end of this month.

Most of their food seems to be found by the male bird, who brings it to the female who in turn does the actual feeding.

Instead of "tu-whit, to-whoo" the tawny owl after April forgets this song and is content with its well-known hunting call—"hoo... hoo..." This is quite distinct from the little owl's shriller "coo-oo" or "coo... ik," though sometimes one could confuse the long-eared owl's drawn-out "oo-oo-oo" with the tawny owl's call. More distinctive is the barn owl's cry—a weird shriek heard from a distance, but very like a yelling cat when heard nearby. It cannot be mistaken for any other owl.

## HARD TO SEE

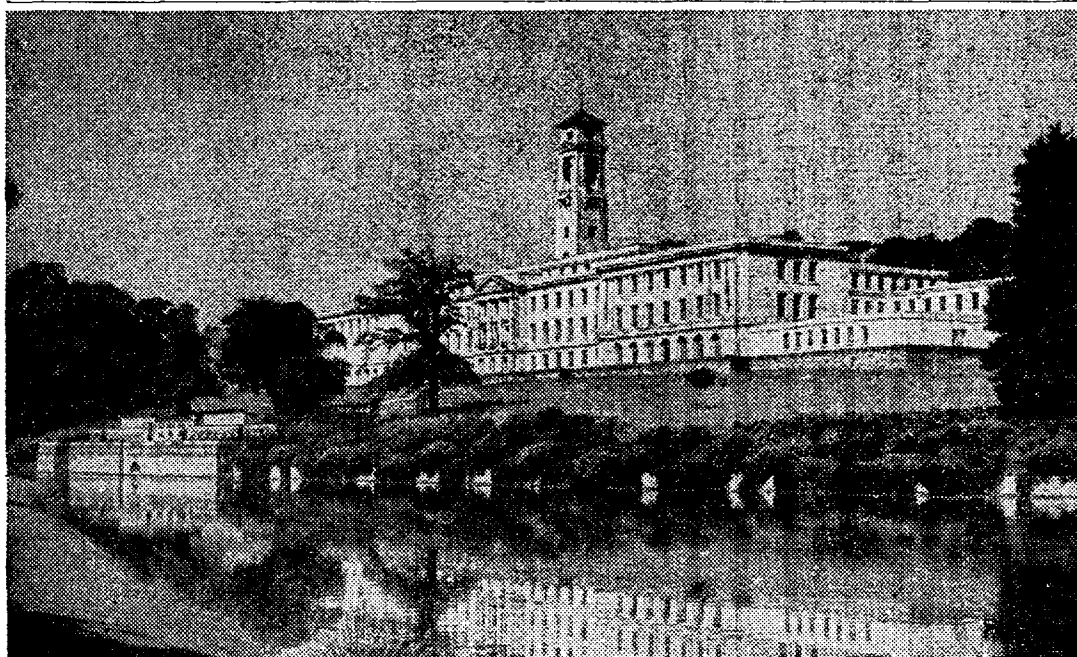
The handsome barn owl is not easy to see in daylight. Though in the half-light it simply looks a rather large white bird, it is finely speckled in front with grey and pale brown, and over the back and top of the head the same speckling is mingled in light reddish brown and yellow feathers. His face, however, is quite white.

It is a pity that this useful bird is scarcer than it was only thirty years ago, probably because it likes making a nest in buildings (as its name suggests). Its human enemies have often destroyed the young, regarding the nest as a nuisance. The gradual disappearance of good old-fashioned timber barns may help the bird to survive by encouraging it to make more use of shelter in trees.

## LIVELY RESIDENT

The barn owl probably raises its first brood later than any other species in Britain, except the little owl. This lively owl became a resident here a little over a hundred years ago and is the only one you will easily see in daylight, either flying, or dozing, on any convenient perch, even telegraph wires.

C. D. D.



OUR HOMELAND

Nottingham University—beautiful buildings in a beautiful setting



# FIRST TRAIN THROUGH LARGEST TUNNEL

GOESCHENEN, Switzerland—The steep slopes around this Alpine village served this morning as natural terraces for crowds gathered to witness a historic event—a train coming out of the longest tunnel in the world.

The train arrived from Airolo, on the Italian side of the St. Gotthard mountains, through the newly completed St. Gotthard railway tunnel. When it steamed out through the gaily decorated exit, after its 9½-mile journey under the mountains, the spectators broke into cheers and ran down the track to welcome the tunnel workmen who were its proud passengers.

When work began on boring this immense tunnel in the autumn of

a train started from each end of the tunnel carrying officials and invited guests and friends.

By that time the miners were preparing to clear away the last foot-thick sheet of rock. In recognition of the fact that an Airolo borer had been first to penetrate the rock, the Italians were given the honour of blasting away this final obstacle. It was blown up at 11.15 a.m., and the cheering workmen from both parties scrambled over the debris to each other in a frenzy of delight.

Then, in the middle of the tunnel, one of the officials made a speech, paying tribute to the late M. Louis Favre, the Genevan engineer who had not lived to see his great work completed, but had died from a heart attack last year while in the tunnel on a visit of inspection.

A touching recognition of his great work was made by the Airolo men. A photograph of M. Favre was the first thing they passed through the opening to their Goeschenen comrades.

All the workers who have taken part in the project are to receive a commemorative medal on which will be the arms of Germany, Switzerland, and Italy, countries which contributed to the scheme.

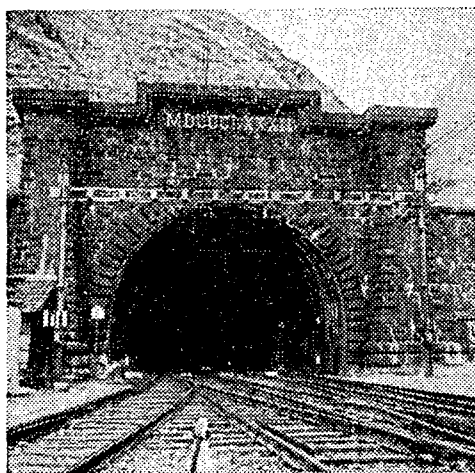
For sheer physical endurance the boring of the St. Gotthard tunnel has been one of the most arduous mining operations ever undertaken. The miners had to work in hothouse temperatures, as it was almost impossible to bring currents of cool air down the long shaft. The air was foul and light-ning was bad.

## WORKING LIKE HEROES

But the miners worked like heroes. Stripped to the waist, they toiled amid the clatter of the engines, the harsh rattle of the borers, and the noise of distant explosions. The debris was carried out of the tunnel by horses.

The new tunnel will be a tremendous aid to communications in Europe. The St. Gotthard Pass lies in the direct line of the trans-Continental routes from Milan, through Switzerland to Strasbourg, Calais, and London. The highway over the St. Gotthard mountains is often blocked by snow, but the tunnel—reaching at its highest point 3781 feet above sea level—will now provide uninterrupted travel between Italy and Switzerland.

(The St. Gotthard tunnel is now the third longest mountain railway tunnel. The biggest, the Simplon, 12 miles long and also between Switzerland and Italy, was begun 15 years later.)



The north entrance of the St. Gotthard Tunnel, Switzerland

1872, it was estimated that it would take eight years. In fact, it has been completed seven months ahead of schedule. The great day was last Sunday, three days ago, when the tunnelling parties met at the centre.

On the preceding Saturday evening the Goeschenen party noticed that pieces of rock were falling from the face ahead of them, and realised that they must be nearing their comrades at the other side. They stopped work and listened. Then for the first time they heard the sound of operations from the Airolo side.

## EAGER HANDS

The Goeschenen men at first rushed back along the tunnel, fearing that the men on the Italian side might put in blasting charges and injure them. When they did venture back to the head of the gallery they saw the point of one of the Airolo borers sticking out through the rock wall. Eager hands reached out and touched it, but were quickly drawn back, for the borer was almost red-hot.

The Airolo miner drew the borer back and peered through. "Bon jour!" he called to the Goeschenen party, and then ran back along the tunnel to telegraph the joyful news to Airolo.

Rail tracks had already been laid as the tunnelling proceeded, and at seven o'clock on Sunday morning

## NEW FILMS

# STEALING A GENERAL AND SAVING A PLANE

THE film called *Ill Met By Moonlight* is a version of the book about a famous incident in the last war, when the German general in occupied Crete was kidnapped by British secret agents, taken across country to the coast, and thence by ship to Cairo.

The story is entertaining, although perhaps not really exciting enough, one trouble being that the same sort of things have to keep happening over and over again. Much of the film is an account of the way the little party took their captive across the Cretan mountains to the coast, and inevitably this means that there is a sameness about the problems that come up on the journey.

## LIGHTHEARTEDNESS

Nevertheless, the whole affair turns out to be very amusing—for if we are to believe the film everybody was very lighthearted about it all.

We see everything from the beginning, when the secret agents lay their plans for seizing the general from his car when he is on his way from his headquarters to his house. With the help of Cretan partisans—including several fierce-looking men in whiskers, whom it is not always easy to tell apart—the kidnapping is successfully managed; then comes the journey across the mountains.

When they get to the coast there are more difficulties: German troops all over the place; finding somebody who knows the Morse code to signal to the British ship; and so on.

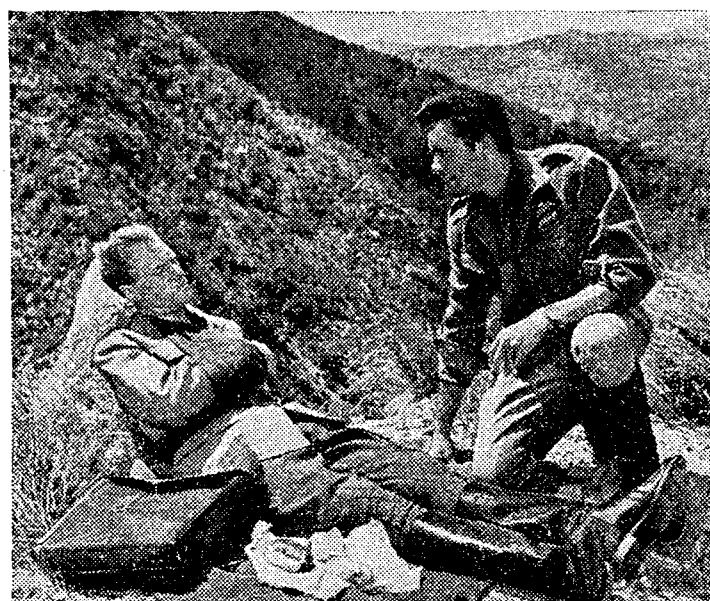
What you are likely to notice most about the picture is the lightheartedness. Can it really all have been so gay, we wonder?

Dirk Bogarde plays the part of Major Paddy Leigh-Fermer, the dashing major in charge of the band of kidnappers; and Marius Goring is the German general.

ANOTHER new film, more gripping and more serious, is called *The Man in the Sky*—the test pilot employed by a small, not very successful aircraft firm.



Jack Hawkins as John Mitchell the Test Pilot



Dirk Bogarde and Marius Goring in a scene from *Ill Met by Moonlight*

The test pilot is demonstrating a new freight plane to a possible buyer when things go wrong: one engine catches fire, and the plane is in great danger. The pilot insists that everybody else shall jump with parachutes, but he determines to bring the plane down safely by himself, because the whole future of his small firm depends on it.

For almost half an hour we watch him doing all he can to save the plane in which he is quite alone.

He puts the plane into a steep dive and extinguishes the flames—only to lose his flaps and part of his aileron controls.

Meanwhile crowds are collecting below on the airfield. This is the big scene—everything leads up to it, and the domestic scenes that come afterwards are bound to seem something of an anticlimax. Even so, the whole film keeps us interested in one way or another.

Jack Hawkins is excellent as the pilot, and Elizabeth Sellars is very good as the wife who is angry with him for taking such a terrible risk instead of baling out and letting the plane be lost.

## FIRST CUCKOO

Will the cuckoo arrive in Britain early this year? The first to be heard in Europe since last summer was calling on the southern shores of Lake Neuchâtel, Switzerland, as long ago as January 30.

Yet the cuckoo is no early bird as a rule. A family of Norfolk naturalists who recorded the bird's arrival in the Norwich district over a period of 106 years never heard it before April 9, and found April 23 the average date.

One Worcestershire naturalist who listened for the bird each spring for 30 years never heard or saw it before April 4.

Yet occasionally a cuckoo will appear in March, dropping to the ground to feed upon the caterpillars of the Tiger moth which sometimes lurk in large numbers about the grass and moss of the ditches and field banks.

One year a host of cuckoos crossed the Weald of Sussex, between Haywards Heath and the Hampshire border, on March 31. But perhaps the earliest record belongs to Devon. One was heard there on March 10 in 1884.

## BOY DOWN A WELL

One of Western Australia's biggest rescue operations was recently carried out to save a 2½-year-old boy who had fallen 30 feet down a well.

The shaft was too narrow for a full-grown man to descend, so skilled miners from the goldfields began tunnelling into the earth, using thousands of pounds' worth of equipment which they had brought with them.

While they tunnelled, doctors pumped oxygen down the bore-hole and drew out the foul air with vacuum cleaners.

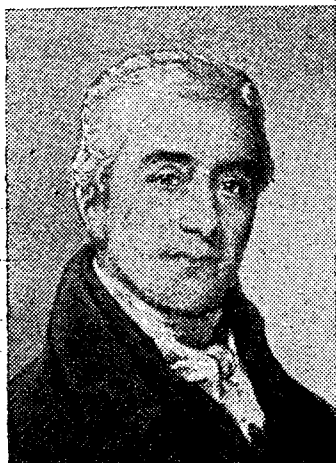
After 23 hours of continuous toil the rescuers reached the boy and passed him back from hand to hand to safety. He was little the worse for his ordeal.



# He woke the nation's conscience

Two hundred years ago, on March 1, 1757, the simple home of a working jeweller in Soho, London, was gladdened by the birth of a son. In those very different days children could be hanged for stealing, and the treatment of wrongdoers was often as stupid as it was cruel. The boy born that day was destined to spend his life in setting those bad things right. He was Samuel Romilly.

SAMUEL's grandparents had been French Protestants who had escaped to England from persecution in their own country. And as part of his education he was allowed to speak only French on Sundays. Eventually he was articled to a law clerk, and at 26 qualified for the Bar.



Sir Samuel Romilly

Soon briefs began to flow in, and the young barrister, who specialised in civil cases, was revealing a logical mind, great determination, and a charm of manner. But as the years passed, and his reputation in the courts grew, one subject increasingly held his thoughts—the savage nature of many punishments.

In those late 18th-century days the death penalty could be imposed for over 300 different offences, many of them minor ones. For instance, a beggar stealing five

shillings, or joining a band of gypsies who trespassed, might be punished by execution. For stealing an oyster a man or woman could be transported—that is, sent, perhaps for life, to convict settlements in America where they worked on the plantations.

These brutal laws brought justice into disrepute. But not until he was 49 could the tall, austere barrister take positive steps towards real reform. At the peak of his profession, earning £10,000 a year, he was knighted and became Solicitor-General in the celebrated "Ministry Of All The Talents."

## SCHOOLS FOR THE POOR

Romilly knew that patience was necessary when introducing reforms, and he brought in Bills gradually to reduce the number of offences punishable by death. His calm eloquence, clear reasoning, and humane simplicity won admiration.

A host of other reforms gained Romilly's support. He urged that more schools be provided for the poor, exposed the evils of transportation, and opposed flogging in the Army. He played a leading rôle in abolishing the pillory. Ceaselessly he campaigned for better prison treatment.

In 1807 the Commons passed the historic Slave Traffic Bill. Wilberforce and fellow-abolitionists had all along been warmly helped by Sir Samuel. On the final day of debate his speech fired the House. In a body, members rose and loudly cheered him three times

Continued in next column

# MAYFLOWER HEROES

On this page next week we shall begin a new picture-version of the adventures of the Mayflower Pilgrims. Theirs is a thrilling story, and one which will have special topical interest shortly, for in the spring a replica of the Mayflower, a gift from Britain, is due to sail the Atlantic in the wake of her historic namesake.

It was in December 1620 that the Pilgrim Fathers landed on the shores of Massachusetts. But, as our picture-version of their story will show, their quest for freedom to worship as they pleased began several years earlier. And many more years were to pass before they could dwell in peace.

## THREATENED BY INDIANS

The story of their life in New England, indeed, is one of dire peril and cruel hardship. Threatened by Indians, hunger, and sickness, they survived only by what we today call team spirit—the product, of course, of deep faith in their cause.

It was because the team spirit was so strong among these brave and devout people that they won the day and helped to lay the foundations of a mighty nation. Their achievement is one of history's most inspiring epics.

as he offered a vision of colonial lands "no more cultivated by wretched slaves, but by happy and contented labourers."

For a further eleven years Romilly continued his fight against the harsh punishments of the day, earning the name "Friend of the Oppressed."

During his career Romilly represented many constituencies, and in 1818 he was chosen by the voters of Westminster itself. But within four months he was dead, mourned far and near.

Of this great lawyer and reformer, the Morning Post truly said: "He was one of the noblest of Englishmen, to whom humanity owes a great debt."



## All done by hand

Street is a Somerset town with a great reputation for making footwear. But amid so much modern machinery Mr. M. Witcomb is still making shoes by hand there, and his instruction in hand-sewing is useful to young Neil Broughton, keen soccer player, who has made himself a football.

# STAMP NEWS

AMERICA's great steel industry is 100 this year, and there is to be a special centenary stamp.

THIS is one of a pair of German stamps which will enable poor children to have a holiday this



year. Each bears a surcharge towards the cost of the treat.

MALTA was awarded the George Cross 15 years ago, and the island is planning a set of three to mark the anniversary. They will picture scenes during the siege.

THOUGHT to be the world's oldest man, Javier Pereira of Colombia is portrayed on two of his country's newest stamps.

THE world's most unusual Post Office is probably that at Antarctica's Ross Dependency. It is an outsize packing case! When the new stamps were issued recently, philatelists among American Servicemen stationed nearby formed a queue 20 yards long to buy first day covers!

SWITZERLAND is to have a special stamp to mark the 75th anniversary of the St. Gothard Tunnel (See page 7.)

DOES anyone want to buy a stamp collection? M. Maurice Burrus, the internationally-known collector, is offering his for sale at £3,500,000! It will be split up and auctioned at different times.

# DEERSLAYER—new picture-version of Fenimore Cooper's famous frontier yarn (Final Instalment)



When Big Serpent appealed to the Hurons to depart peacefully, Briarthorn, the man Hist had denounced as a traitor to their tribe, tried to prove his loyalty. "Hurons, this is your mortal enemy!" he cried, and threw a tomahawk. But Hist, standing nearby was quicker, and with a flick of her wrist she spoilt his aim. Big Serpent, standing beside Deerslayer, did not shoot, but like lightning whipped out his knife and threw it at the traitor, killing him.



Then the tread of marching men was heard, and the soldiers sent by Harry Hurry at last appeared, taking the Indians utterly by surprise. Some of the Hurons stood their ground, others took cover behind trees. But in the fight that followed many of them were killed or captured, and the rest fled. Unhappily poor Hetty was accidentally shot and mortally wounded. They took her to the Ark where she died peacefully in her sister's arms.

Later they buried her in the lake.



Judith intended leaving the Ark to return to the settlements. She was in love with Deerslayer, and in the canoe in which he paddled her ashore, she told him so. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart," he replied, then gently explained that marriage was not for him. The call of the wild was too strong. She was profoundly grieved but took his refusal without any feeling of resentment.



Ashore they said farewell. Judith departed with the soldiers for civilisation, and Deerslayer turned his face in the opposite direction. He went with Big Serpent and Hist to their tribal village, where there was great rejoicing at the kidnapped girl's return, and the young white man was treated as a hero. After staying with the Delawares, Deerslayer and Big Serpent set out for more adventures in the wild frontier regions they both loved.

Beginning on this page next week, a new picture-story of the Mayflower Pilgrims



The Children's Newspaper, March 2, 1957

Susan and her brother Nicky have formed themselves into a firm which they call **ODD-JOBBERS, LTD.**, and have advertised that they are willing to undertake any job they are asked to do during their school holidays. This is the story of the third job that came their way.

#### 4. Monkey tricks

**ODD-JOBBERS, LTD.** would never forget the famous afternoon when they made the acquaintance of Chippo the Chimpanzee. Chippo belonged to Mr. Andrews, who had replied to their circular letter by writing and asking them to come round and do a job of painting for him.

"Here are some lengths of garden trellis," he said, when he had brought them round to the back garden and they were standing on the lawn. "They are each six feet high and about eight feet long when they are stretched out ready for putting up. I want them painted both sides, back and front. Well?"

"We are expert painters," Nicky assured him. "Aren't we, Sue?"

Mr. Andrews laughed. "I am afraid this is not highly skilled work," he said. "Just hack work. Very dull work indeed. Fiddling work, with all these angles, too. I reckon each length of the trellis ought to take you half an hour. There are eight lengths, so that is four hours for the whole job. I am prepared to pay two bob an hour. O.K.?"

#### A bonus?

Susan and Nicky nodded vigorously. It did not seem bad pay at all, especially for a job that ought to be quite fun to do, anyway.

"All right, then. Saturday is my afternoon for golf," said Mr. Andrews. He glanced at his watch. "It is half-past two now. I shall be back about six o'clock. If you have completed the whole job by the time I get back here, there will be a bonus for you and we will call it ten bob."

"Jolly good!" said Nicky. "I bet we will have finished long before then."

"Perhaps so; perhaps not," said Mr. Andrews with a smile. "We will see. Oh, by the way, you will have company while you work. Chippo over there will be watching you." He pointed to a big wire cage at the foot of the garden and whistled. A second later, through the doorway of the hut at the back of the wire cage darted a baby chimpanzee. He leapt from the ground and gripped a swinging wooden bar, stuck his fingers between his rubbery lips and let out a piercing whistle.

#### Bundle of mischief

"Oh," cried Susan, "what a darling little thing, isn't he?"

"Chippo," Mr. Andrews called to him, "keep your eye on **ODD-JOBBERS, LTD.**, won't you?" He turned to Susan. "You call him a darling little thing, eh? Well, he's small all right, but he's a bundle of mischief, for all that." He waved to Chippo. "Right," he said. "I'm off. See the three of you later."

They watched him walk down the path between his house and the garage, then they heard his car start up, and a minute later he was gone.

Join in the fun with Nicky and Susan, proprietors of . . .

# ODD-JOBBERS, LTD.

By Garry Hogg

"Come on, Sue," said Nicky. "Work first and play afterwards—if there is time!"

"I did so want to have just a little bit of fun talking to Chippo before we started on this," Sue said, rather sadly. "He's so sweet, isn't he?"

They turned their backs on the baby chimp's cage, however, and



Chippo watched them cautiously

dipped their brushes into the tin of green paint. There was work to be done.

At first it went very slowly, but they got quicker at it as time went by. They stood the length of trellis upright and worked on opposite sides of it, so that each could get at the awkward corners that the other could not see. Before very long their fingers were quite sore with handling the brushes.

#### Money for green paint

"At this rate," Nicky remarked, "we ought to be finished easily before Mr. Andrews gets back. We'll have time to play with Chippo and still get that bonus. Ten bob; that is five bob for each of us. Money for—"

"Green paint!" Susan finished for him.

They were just beginning work on the fifth piece of trellis when Susan suddenly let out a yelp that made Nicky almost drop his brush as if he had been stung. "NICK!"

He swung round. And there, only a yard or two away, hopping excitedly up and down on the lawn and uttering little squeals of delight, was—Chippo the Chimpanzee!

"He's got out!" yelled Susan, and dodged behind the trellis for safety.

"Idiot!" Nicky shouted to her. "Look lively and help, or he will

escape from the garden and get out into the traffic!"

As though Chippo had understood, he turned about and began a bandy-legged trot towards the path that led between the house and the garage, and so to the open double gate and the street beyond.

"Quick!" yelled Nicky. "He mustn't reach the street!"

Luckily Chippo slowed down. He had spotted a tall clothes-line post. With one agile leap he reached the top of it, and for a precious moment or two, just long enough, he clung there.

"Now," hissed Nicky, "what do I do!" He picked up a length of trellis and darted off towards the house, closely followed by Susan. From his perch at the top of the clothes post, Chippo watched them cautiously, muttering rapidly, his small, beady eyes focused unwinkingly on them.

#### Netted!

"Stand by, Sue," Nicky said. By now he had wedged his piece of trellis so that it exactly filled the gap between the house and the garage. And his quick eye had spotted an odd piece of strawberry-netting hanging from a nail. He snatched at it. "Get round behind Chippo," he said to Susan, "and throw this over his head if you can."

Susan did so, and by great good luck the net dropped over Chippo's head like a long veil. He was furious. He dropped from his perch and darted towards the trellis that Nicky was holding in position. As he approached, his dark eyes like buttons, unwinking and full of mischief, his head tilted upwards, he put out his human-like little hands and reached for the trellis.

"I've got to trap you, somehow, before—before you climb over and escape," Nicky muttered between his teeth.

"How?" gasped Susan.

But before Nicky could answer, Chippo answered for him; he had trapped himself! Already tangled in the loose folds of netting, he thrust his fingers and toes through four diamond-shaped holes in the trellis to begin his bid for freedom. Quick as lightning, Nicky squeezed the trellis, concertina-wise; the diamond-shaped holes became smaller, and in four of them were Chippo's fingers and toes!

#### Angry chimp

The baby chimp began to protest. Behind the netting, his small eyes glinted furiously and he tried to spit at Nicky. But Nicky knew that the Chimp would soon wriggle out, and he dared not squeeze the trellis any harder for fear of hurting him.

"Quick, Sue," he called out, "curve another piece of trellis round behind him so as to encircle

him. That's right. Now go to one side and hold the two edges and I'll hold the other two, so we'll have Chippo in a sandwich. Right. Jolly good!"

They allowed the two pieces of trellis to stretch a little so as to free Chippo's hands and feet and not hurt him. It was a good thing he was only a baby chimp, and so not too heavy. They tilted the trellis till it was level with the ground. It now hung between them like a stretcher, with Chippo spitting and squealing angrily inside, a helpless sandwich. And in that way they carried him back across the lawn and to the door of his wire cage which he had somehow managed to open. Once inside it, they let go suddenly and darted backwards, slamming the door shut behind them and slipping the bolt that Chippo had been clever enough to slide out of its staple.

"Wheeeeeeeoooooooo!" they gasped, collapsing exhausted on the lawn. "Look at Chippo, though," said Susan. "Whatever will Mr. Andrews say?"

Chippo was streaked and criss-crossed from top to toe with bright

green paint, and was licking at it delightedly, as though he really enjoyed the taste of it!

Nicky and Susan were just finishing the last piece of trellis when Mr. Andrews ran his car into the garage and came across the lawn towards them.

"What on earth—" He was staring at Chippo's cage as though he could not believe his eyes. "Have you been letting him help you?" he asked.

They told him the whole story, and Mr. Andrews laughed till the tears ran down his cheeks.

"It was touch and go whether we finished in time, thanks to Chippo," Nicky ended.

#### "A good job"

"It was thanks to you that my beloved Chippo did not vanish for good," said Mr. Andrews, turning serious all of a sudden. "He might have been killed on the road." He took out of his wallet a crisp ten-shilling note. "A good job well done," he said. "And I think I might stop Chippo's pocket-money this week and hand it to you as a bonus on a bonus!"

"No, thanks awfully, all the same," Susan said. "He had a bit of a shock, I think, and ought not to be punished any more."

So they said goodbye, first to Chippo (who was far too busy licking off the green paint to notice them), and then to Mr. Andrews, and set off cheerfully for home.

Nicky and Susan will be back next week on another job

You can be one of this month's



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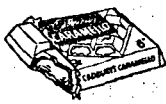


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# SPORTS SHORTS

**MALVIN WHITFIELD**, 1948 Olympic 800 metres champion, won so many trophies during his career that he has recently been presenting them to schools in the United States for athletic competitions. So far he has presented 38.

## But no record

**NICHOLAS HEAD**, the 18-year-old Somerset schoolboy who set up a British best performance of 243 feet 9 inches for a junior javelin throw last summer, has now beaten the senior Empire record. In an inter-house event at his school, using the senior javelin, he threw 236 feet 11 inches. Although this distance exceeds the present Empire and Commonwealth record, it cannot be considered as a record as it was not achieved in an official match competition.

**MICHAEL BULL**, the 14-year-old Chaddesden schoolboy who recently won the Derby and County Athletic Club's 3½-mile youths' handicap race, was trying to equal his brother Geoffrey. Five years earlier Geoffrey won the same event.

## Maori champion

**RUHA MORRISON**, who is New Zealand's tennis singles champion, hopes to play at Wimbledon this year. If she comes she will be the first Maori to appear there.

**SEYMOUR HALL**, Marylebone, will be the scene of great excitement this Wednesday when the finals of the London Federation of Boys' Clubs Boxing Championships are held there. Favourites for the inter-club trophy are the Bradford Club, Peckham, whose seven entries have all reached the finals.

THE M.C.C. tour of South Africa is approaching its end. This weekend the fifth and final Test starts, at Port Elizabeth. Four Tests have been played at this ground in the past, and England are unbeaten. The final Test of the 1948-49 tour at Port Elizabeth was one of the most exciting ever played in South Africa. Only one minute remained for play when Jack Crapp (Gloucestershire) hit the runs that gave England victory by three wickets. Denis Compton is the only member of the present touring side who was playing on that occasion.

## Water-borne



Water skiing is the easiest thing in the world—or so you would think from this picture of a young expert skimming along in Cypress Gardens in Florida.

**GEORGE RAYNOR** is very much in demand these days. Having coached Sweden's national football team from 1948 to 1953, he returned to Coventry as trainer and coach to the City team. He left the club last November, and promptly received offers from Holland, Singapore, Iraq—and Sweden. He has now accepted the Swedish offer, and is to prepare the team for next year's World Cup matches.

Two years ago Alec Dawson was a Hull schoolboy footballer winning English international honours. Today he is a leading-goalscorer with Manchester United reserves, and is ready to step into the League XI when the opportunity comes. Young Alec may yet become Scotland's centre-forward in the future, for although he played for England's schoolboys, this son of a Hull trawlerman was born in Scotland.

## SPORTING GALLERY

### COLIN COWDREY

It was not very long ago that the cricket world awakened to the fact that there was a Tonbridge schoolboy, aged only 13, who already looked like a future England player.

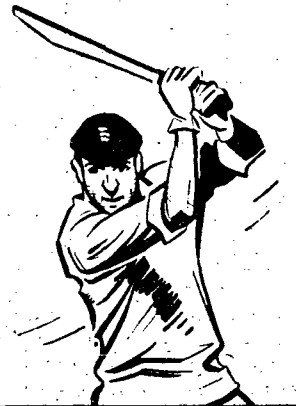
Michael Colin Cowdrey (and what better initials for a cricketer than M.C.C.?) has fulfilled all his bright schoolboy promise. At



school, at Oxford, for Kent, and for England he has played many fine innings.

His Test career began in Australia under Len Hutton in 1954-5. In South Africa this winter, two fine innings in the second Test laid the foundation of victory. He drives the ball like Walter Hammond of old and, from the pavilion, looks remarkably like him when at the wicket.

This summer he will be captain of Kent.



**JOHN CHARLES**, the Welsh international soccer star of Leeds United, will be visiting Uganda next June to appear in a series of exhibition matches. The big Welshman will be taking the place of Stanley Matthews, who became so popular in Uganda last year. Stanley Matthews had hoped to return, but his commitments entail visiting South Africa this summer.

A 15-YEAR-OLD Sydney lad, Jeff Stephens, finished the Australian cricket season with a batting average of 172 runs and bowling figures of 35 wickets for 136 runs. Jeff scored 1032 runs in eight innings in the New South Wales churches competition. Most of his team mates and opposing players were aged from 18 to 30. Jeff obviously has a bright future.

## They like refereeing

SOCCER refereeing runs in the Ross-Gower family. Walter Ross-Gower was a prominent Football League referee a few years ago, and in 1942 was in charge of the England v. Scotland international at Wembley. His eldest son, Ted, followed in father's footsteps and holds a Class I referee's certificate, and now 14-year-old Walter recently passed the county referee's examination. But he will not be allowed to officiate at matches until he is 17.

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The Children's Newspaper, March 2, 1957  
NEWS FROM THE ZOO

# EFFECT OF THE MILD WEATHER

## Birds nesting out of season

THE unusually mild weather this year has had a marked effect upon many Zoo birds, some of which have been nesting "out of season." Among these are a pair of common cormorants who live in the big open-air enclosure for sea-birds adjoining the sea-lions' pond.

"The birds are a pair we received about ten years ago from Lord Revelstoke," said Mr. John Yealland, curator of birds. "They were bred on his estate on Lambay Island, off the Irish coast. Last year, for the first time, the cormorants made a nest, but there were no eggs. This time they not only have a nest—they have placed it about 12 feet up on top of the rockery—but they also have two white-shelled eggs, which they are taking turns in incubating. We expect more eggs yet, as the usual clutch of a cormorant is three to five."

"So far as we can discover, this is the first time that cormorants have nested in the Gardens. But the amazing thing is the time of year. In the wild, cormorants usually do not nest until late April. But this pair must have been deceived by the mildness of the winter."

"Incubation period is 28 days," added Mr. Yealland, "so we hope

that the cold weather yet to be expected does not cause the cormorants to desert."

Other nesting birds causing concern are two budgerigars, both of the green-plumaged type, who flew into the Gardens recently "house-hunting." Very soon they were nesting in a deep hole in a weeping willow tree just outside the back door of the curator's house, which is occupied by Mr. Oliver Jones, curator of mammals, his wife, and Mrs. Jack Lester, widow of the late curator of reptiles.

### BUDGERIGAR ORPHANS

"Their newly-hatched babies are already beginning to look out of the nest-hole," said Mrs. Lester. "But the problem is: to whom do the birds belong? The parents do not belong to the Zoo. But it is usual for any young birds hatched in the Gardens to become the property of the Society, even though any claimants arrive to collect the parents."

"Officials will probably decide to ring the young birds and put them into the homing budgerigars' aviary for their own sakes. We certainly hope so, for the babies would have a hard time of it if we get some really hard weather."

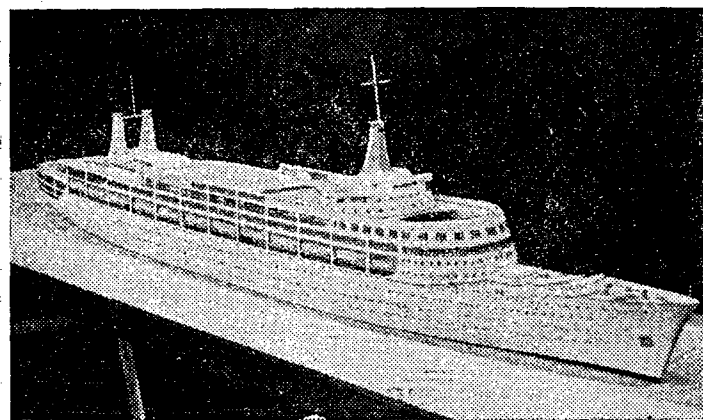
At the insect house plans are being made to exhibit, in the

spring, the "biggest-ever" collection of silk-moths. Overseer George Ashby, who is getting this exhibition together, told me: "We have made a good start by obtaining dozens of cocoons from L. Hugh Newman's butterfly 'farm' at Bexley, Kent. Mr. Newman has been importing them for us from America, India, and other parts of the world, and he has just sent along his first batch. Others will arrive shortly. We are now 'forcing' some of these cocoons so that they will start hatching in April."

At the moment the cocoons of these moths, some about three inches long and looking like stubby silver cigars, are lying in special cages at the insect house. From them, in due course, will emerge some of the largest and most beautiful silk-moths in the world—the atlas moth, the moon moths and golden emperors; shantung and tussore silk-moths from India; and the robins and oak silk-moths of America.

But, lovely though most of them are, there is little "future" for any of them. "They mate, lay eggs, and die," Mr. Ashby said. "As exhibits, however, they should be a great attraction."

CRAVEN HILL



### Ship of the future

This model of a new P & O liner was shown recently in London. She is to be launched in 1960 and will be the first British passenger ship to be driven entirely by electricity.

## TO EXPLORE OCEAN DEPTHS

A huge observation chamber, capable of descending to ocean depths of over 33,000 feet, is to be built at Toulon. It will be a kind of "underwater balloon" similar to the one in which two French naval officers, Georges Huout and Pierre Wilm, reached a record depth of 13,287 feet (2½ miles) in 1954 off Dakar, West Africa.

Their record descent was made in what is called a bathyscaphe. It was a steel sphere, with walls 3½ inches thick, fixed under a tank containing petrol, which is buoyant. Heavy weights attached to the sphere by electro-magnets took it down, and when these were discarded the petrol-filled tank carried the explorers to the surface.

This strange underwater craft was built by Professor Piccard, the famous Swiss scientist-explorer of ocean depths. He took the name "bathyscaphe" from the Greek words "bathus" (depth) and "scaphe" (ship)—hence, "a ship of the depths."

The new Toulon bathyscaphe will have steel walls 6½ inches thick, with transparent portholes of a material yet to be decided on. In it Georges Huout and Pierre Henri Wilm hope to plumb abysses deeper than Mount Everest is high. The deepest of these ocean-bed "trenches," as they are called, lies between the islands of Guam and Yap, and is 35,640 feet below the surface.

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## TAKING HER AT HER WORD

FATHER: "You shouldn't take two apples at once, Tom."

Tom: "Well, Mother told me I could have an apple or a pear, so I'm taking a pair."

## HOT STUFF

THERE was an old granny named Pannel.

Who one winter's day swam the Channel.

When asked: "Was it chilly?"

She said: "Don't be silly!

My swimming suit's made of red flannel."

## BEDTIME TALE

### SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN!

"I'm tired of spring-cleaning," said Bertie Badger to his wife Milly one late February evening. "We have changed all the bedding. Now let us go out."

"All right," Milly agreed doubtfully. "But you go ahead to see that all is well. I have a feeling something might happen."

So Bertie went and sniffed outside the sett.

"All clear!" he called back soon, and started off slowly, leaving Milly to follow. Which she did.

But presently she stopped and growled: "Listen! What's that?"

"Nothing," Bertie replied. "You are jumpy. Come on!" But Milly turned back home.

Mumbling crossly about worrying over things which might not happen, Bertie trotted on. It was this mood which made him go farther afield than usual, right to the wood's edge where a new housing estate was beginning.

The smell of man all around made him bristle. But soon another smell made him forget his fears,



## GROWING UP

MY Mummy says, if I am good, And eat my dinner as I should,

I'll grow as big as big can be!

I wonder if the tall oak tree

Tells all her little acorns that?

And whether Mrs. Pussy-cat,

And Mrs. Sheep and Mrs. Bear,

And Mrs. Goat and Mrs. Hare,

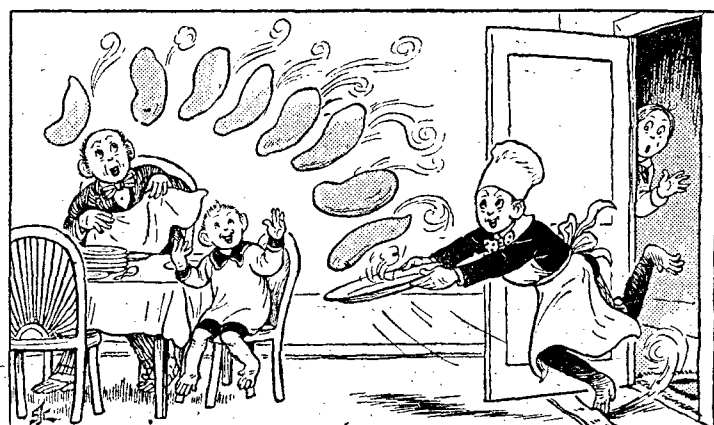
Say: "Hurry up and eat your tea,

And soon you will be strong like me?"

I 'spect they do, 'cos Mummies know

That eating makes their children grow!

## JACKO TOSSES THE PANCAKES



Jacko, all dressed up for the occasion, had helped Mother to cook the pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Then, proudly carrying them on a plate, he hurried along the hall. But just as he went into the dining room he caught his foot in the carpet. All the pancakes went flying into the air, only to land on the floor instead of on the table. "Oo!" cried Baby. "Clever Jacko is tossing all the pancakes at once!"

## SPOT THE...

STARLING as, in company with others, he walks rapidly about the lawn, eagerly seeking food. About now he is changing into his spring



dress. His dark speckled plumage of winter is giving way to a glossy mixture of metallic greens, purples, and blues which glint in the light.

There is almost no limit to the variety in the starling's song. It is a medley of whistling and babbings in all keys. Sometimes the bird clearly mimics many other sounds, both natural and mechanical.

## NOT AT ALL CLEAR

SAID one sailor to another: "I've been in a worse fog than this."

"Where?" asked the other.

"I don't know. It was too foggy to see."

## WHAT AM I?

MY first is in pudding, not in meat;

My second's in sugar, not in sweet.

My third is in mutton, also in bone;

My fourth is in cake and also in scone.

My fifth is in pastry, but not in puff;

My sixth is in steak, but not in duff.

My seventh's in sole and also in kipper;

My last is in sponge, but never in fritter.

My whole is a dish you will greet with a cheer;

It's usually eaten at this time of year.

The answers to these puzzles are given in column 5

## PANCAKE PANIC

WHEN I tossed a pancake It landed on the mat. Then Janet tried the next one, That landed on the cat. So Mother said: "I'll show you How you should do that." She missed her aim, and Daddy said: "I like your nice new hat."

## NOT HARD

"WHAT do you work at?" the old lady asked the tramp. "At intervals," came the weary answer.

## PROVERB FROM THE EAST

HE who knows and knows not that he knows, is asleep: wake him.

He who knows not and knows that he knows not, is awake: teach him.

He who knows and knows that he knows, is a wise man: follow him.

## QUIZ CORNER ANSWERS

1. Pelican.
2. Red, lilac to purple, blue, many shades of red, and green.
3. Maurice Maeterlinck, the Belgian poet and dramatist (1862-1949).
4. Wall Street, the name of the thoroughfare in which it is situated.
5. Edward III.
6. The left and right sides of a ship, looking towards the bows. At night the port side is shown by a red light; the starboard by a green light. The same terms are used for aircraft.

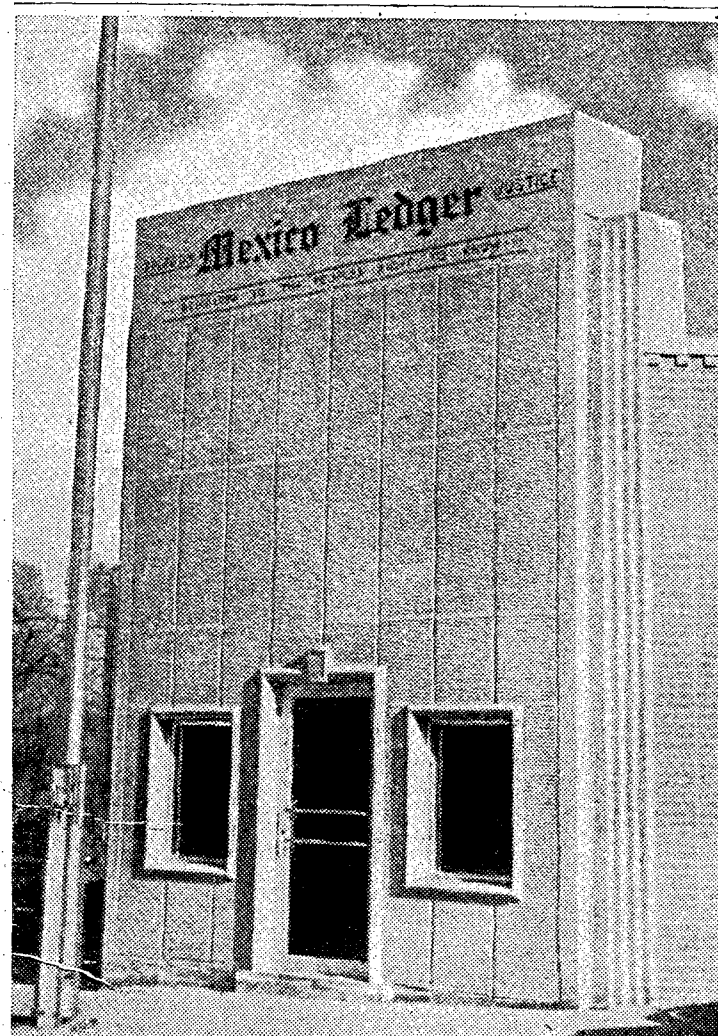
## ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Mixed landmarks. Pisa, Paris, London, New York, San Francisco

Find the lakes. Superior, Michigan

Name me. A pen

What am I? Pancakes



## Front page storey

This single-storey building in the town of Mexico, Missouri, is the new headquarters of a newspaper called the Mexico Ledger. The front of the building is decorated to look like the front page of the newspaper.

## MIXED LANDMARKS

The following landmarks seem to be in the wrong places. Can you put them all in the cities where they belong?

LEANING Tower of San Francisco.

Eiffel Tower of New York.

Nelson's Column in Paris.

Statue of Liberty in London.

Golden Gate of Pisa.

## Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Forbid. 3 Command. 7 Sphere. 8 Before. 9 Creature that flies by night. 11 Notions. 13 Adviser. 15 Amalgamated Press. 16 Because. 17 Doors often have several. 20 Gaze. 22 Supplement. 24 Lubricate. 25 Come first. 26 Wants. 27 Owning.

READING DOWN. 1 Fastened under chin of baby. 2 Mess-age. 3 Obituary. 4 This animal has antlers. 5 Age. 6 Sleeps. 10 Measure of electricity. 12 Curved roof. 14 Close by. 15 Wilful burning of property. 16 Enquire. 17 Wan. 18 Latest information. 19 Loan. 21 Wear it round your neck. 23 See with it.

Answer next week

## FIND THE LAKES

IF you take two consecutive letters from each of the four words below, you can form the names of two of the largest lakes in North America. Each name will, of course, have eight letters.

SUMMIT.  
PEACH.  
TRIGGER.  
ORGAN.

